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The Reef At Diamond Head

Diamond Head has a long record of such mishaps as that of yesterday, when the bark Don sailed aground and was finally towed to safety after half an hour of hard work. Many are the vessels which have struck bottom along this bit of coast, but the number of wrecks is small. Under the ordinary wind conditions which prevail here, a vessel ashore on this side of the island may be regarded as fairly likely to suffer little injury except financially from the heavy salvage rates usually charged for rescue. And most of the cases when a vessel goes aground, it is on this side, apparently for the reason this side is comparatively safe and the mariners therefore take chances.

It is strange that with all the wide ocean to move in, with nothing to be saved by hugging close to the reef, vessels will sail around Diamond Head point, and steer calmly into shallow water and on to the rocks, during an off-shore wind. This is what the Dunreggan did several years ago, and it cost her ten thousand dollars to get off, practically undamaged. She remained fast for a couple of days and was in dire peril for a time, for threatening weather came. On the other side of the island vessels do not get ashore. Captains all know it is not safe and they take no chances. This side, by reason of its very safety, is piling up a record for costly disasters.

It is stated among seafaring men that such accidents as that of yesterday are due to the inaccuracy of British charts, which are in use on many sailing vessels. These charts, it is claimed, show deep water close under Diamond Head. The deep water actually exists not very far from the shore. It might have been naturally expected that the British government, of all others, would possess and distribute correct charts of ocean waters which have been commonly used for many years. It is, nevertheless a fact that after every such disaster here the same excuse is made,—that the British charts are faulty. There does not seem to be any other reasonable excuse for sailing on to a reef in daylight, as so many have done.

The United States government has been doing a lot of work lately here with the Pathfinder, and the result should be new charts and sailing directions more complete and accurate than any that have hitherto been prepared concerning these waters.

Native Protest And Leprosy Bill

It is to be regretted that a certain element of the native Hawaiian population feels so deeply disappointed at the final defeat of the so-called leprosy bill. The bill was in reality one to amend the existing laws relating to the segregation of lepers, the method of examination of persons supposed to be lepers, and the regulation of their segregation at the settlement on Molokai. The bill was a sort of a composite, made up from the numerous bills on the subject that were introduced in the House.

The governor vetoed the bill, sending in a message that fairly bristled with antagonism to it, though it contained two excellent reasons why the bill should be vetoed. One of these was the fact that congress has already made an appropriation for a hospital for the scientific investigation and treatment of leprosy, and it is highly inexpedient at the very moment when this great work is to be inaugurated, to radically change our system of dealing with it. The other excellent reason for vetoing the bill is the fact, if it is a fact, and the language of the act seems to make that clear, that it would in effect abolish segregation. There may be those who would abolish segregation, and if they ever become the majority, they would have the power to abolish it. But if it is to be abolished, it ought to be done by direct action, openly and above board, and not by the indirection of so hedging about the administrative processes of segregation that the thing becomes impossible.

While the greatest sympathy is felt for the unfortunates and their friends, and the people of Hawaii have shown their sympathy in the substantial way of taxing themselves freely to care for these unfortunates, it should also be remembered that there is a duty to the well, as well as to the sick and that the first of these duties is to create conditions which will not put the well in daily and hourly danger of infection.

Those who feel disappointed at the fate of this measure, ought to remember that there is much to be hoped for from the establishment of the proposed hospital here, under the direction of the Marine Hospital Service, which is only an indication of the awakened interest in the subject and the study and investigation that is going on in various parts of the world, from which much is to be hoped.

It ought also to be remembered, that any territorial action which may be taken, which will look like an abandonment of segregation or a relaxation of its efficiency, would almost certainly be followed by prompt action on the part of congress taking control of the segregation of lepers in this Territory. Such seems to be the suggestion of the governor in his veto message when he says, "Legislation of this nature illustrates what radical action may be anticipated if this subject is left permanently with the voters and law-makers of the Territory."

If the federal authorities should take over the segregation of lepers in this territory, the unfortunates and their friends will find a very different sort of administration. Instead of a paternal administration which seeks to consult the habits and wishes of the unfortunates and their friends as far as possible, even at the expense of some measures that from a strictly scientific or humanitarian point of view are desirable, there would follow, a strict medical and hospital regimen. Probably the first thing would be the segregation of the sexes, and an end to the bringing of children into the world almost certainly foredoomed to the disease. Patients would be required to conform strictly to hospital regulations, and there would be an end to the free and easy communal and village life practically free from care which is now enjoyed. Visits to the settlement would be strictly regulated, and there would be no more legislative junkets.

While the community can and does appreciate the feelings which prompted the act whose defeat has caused such profound feeling among a part of the native population, it ought to be considered that the proposed law would be harmful in its results, and might have had as its direct and speedy results some things which those who were so desirous of the law neither expected nor desired.

A Political Cycle Run

The change of postmasters in the Honolulu Post Office, reminds us again, that we are a part of the United States and share in its political customs, changes and vicissitudes. Hawaii has been nearly five years a Territory of the United States, and so has now quite run the cycle of the political quadrennium which measures off the office holding and administrative history of

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When in June, 1900, we received a full set of federal officials and became a Territory, we had only experienced a part of what it means in practical politics to be a part of the United States. The experience is not complete until there has been a change of officers—until office has become vacant by expiration of term or otherwise, and there has been the struggle for appointment to succeed.

Hawaii has now experienced an almost complete change in the personnel of its federal officials. It is believed that the Honolulu post office is the last federal office to be changed in its incumbent. If it is, we have run the complete cycle. The term of office of the Collector of the Port expired some time ago and the original appointee was reappointed. There have been changes in almost every other office from Governor down. The offices of United States marshal, United States District Judge and United States District Attorney, have all suffered change in incumbent through the death of the original appointee. In other cases there have been reappointments and changes on expiration of term or on the resignation of the original appointee. It is believed that there is now no federal official in the Territory who became such on the organization of the Territory, who is now serving under his original commission. The changes, however, have come along so gradually, one at a time, that there has been no shock or crisis.

In the change of postmastership, an official who has given excellent service is replaced by one, who in another direction has done excellent service to the Territory. The change itself was effected without demonstration. There was nothing outwardly to indicate to the public that an important event in the post office was happening. All of these things are characteristics of well ordered and stable government. It is but one of the outward and visible signs of the great advantage we have experienced with annexation.

They have begun to fight the teamsters' strike in Chicago with indictments. Have all the injunctions been used up?

The recent tragedy in the Twenty-ninth Infantry where a captain shot a lieutenant and committed suicide while drunk, proves a fact that has long been apparent. There is too much

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drinking among the officers of the American Army and too little study. If such a condition continues, America may find herself in almost as bad a position as Russia does at the present time. There is need of great reform in the American army.

Gen. Gripenberg evidently is as much of a hypnotist as Viceroy Alexieff.

The news of numerous successes by the Russian army has up to date, been the herald of an enormous victory by the Japanese.

The Czar seems to have been very good to the Russian peasants in remitting \$37,000,000 in taxes. We will be more certain that he has been good if he doesn't impose a hundred millions of new taxes.

Custer's old regiment is coming through here, but it is not expected that there is in it any survivors of the massacre of the Little Big Horn.

Charlie Wilson has announced himself a candidate for sheriff, but the other Dromio, Charlie Clark has not yet told the public what he wants. There may be some voters who cannot make up their ticket until they find out what job he wants.

Joe Pratt succeeds Joe Oat as postmaster, but you can't make "Jo-Jo" out of the combination.

The Japanese may make good infantrymen, but the inference from the score of the Japanese collegians with the Stanford players, is that they haven't learned to play the American national game yet.

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